

TriHealth to build \$30M med center in Liberty Township. November 2006

The medical center will be located across from an \$83 million pediatric outpatient center Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center plans to open in summer 2008.

TriHealth President and CEO John Prout said the health-care network needed to start planning for how it will serve the fast-growing Butler County market.

"We are constantly looking at ways we can improve service and access to TriHealth's quality health care," he said. "This land offers us the flexibility to study the needs of patients in this region and develop a long-term plan that will address the community needs well into the future."

The center will feature specialty clinics, diagnostic services and physician's offices, said Joe Kelley, spokesman for the health-care network.

Diagnostic imaging, physical therapy, and rehabilitation are among the growing list of services TriHealth is planning for the site, Kelley said.

"We're serious about our commitment to Liberty Twp. and we look forward to providing the high quality care that people have come to expect from TriHealth," Kelley said.

TriHealth operates Bethesda Medical Center at Arrow Springs in Lebanon, Bethesda North Hospital in Montgomery and Good Samaritan Hospital in Clifton.

It recently paid Cincinnati Children's \$3.6 million for the 15-acre site, Kelley said.

Development on the site is expected to begin within the next 18 months and an estimated 135 jobs will be created as a result of the project, he said.

The Liberty Twp. location will be similar in size and structure to the Arrow Springs location TriHealth opened in May, officials said.

"We anticipate being able to apply our knowledge and expertise from Bethesda Medical Center at Arrow Springs to something that will benefit our Butler County patients," Prout said.

Trustee Vice President Pat Hiltman said the center is exactly what township officials have envisioned for the area.

"That's what we've been striving for — to make that area a medical corridor," he said. "Our hope is that as the Cox Road extension develops, it will offer the support mechanism for the medical facilities being built."

Contact this reporter at (513) 755-5126 or eschwartzberg@coxohio.com.